

# NJ C . H . A . M . P .

## Children Having a Military Parent

### Helping Families Put Money in their Pockets!!

(taken from [www.nwlc.com](http://www.nwlc.com))

Every year, millions of families fail to claim federal and state tax credits for which they are eligible, leaving billions of dollars unclaimed. Families filing their 2008 tax returns may be eligible for up to:

- \$2,100 from the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit;
- \$1,000 per child from the federal Child Tax Credit;
- \$4,824 from the federal Earned Income Tax Credit; and
- Up to \$1,085 from NJ Earned Income Tax Credit

*To get these credits, you must file a tax return*

Plus, similar [state tax credits are available in many states](#).

This year, families making \$8,500 or more will be eligible for a refund from the federal Child Tax Credit. Almost 3 million more children will be eligible for the Child Tax Credit as a result.

Find out where you can get FREE help with your taxes by calling the IRS toll-free at (800) TAX-1040 or (800) 829-1040. Or go to [www.irs.gov/individuals/topic](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/topic)

## NATIONAL GUARD CHILD CARE PROGRAM

### Did YOU know that during deployment...

**20%** of spouses lost their job because of child care

**17%** of spouses couldn't continue to go to school because of child care

**30%** had increases in child care costs

The National Guard Child Care Program Advocates are happy to give you a hand with your child care needs! Please call 1-888-NGCCP-99 (1-888-642-2799) today, email [NGCCP@guardfamily.org](mailto:NGCCP@guardfamily.org)

Supplement rates are based on several factors including child care costs and family income. All income levels may be eligible to receive a minimum of \$100 per child per month for full time child care while the spouse is working, going to school full time, or looking for work. Guardians may also apply.

**There is no charge for this service!**

Newsletter Written & Prepared By:

**Amanda Balas**

NJ National Guard  
State Youth Coordinator

#### Mailing Addresses:

Non-US Post Office ONLY -  
(FedEx, UPS, couriers, etc)  
DMAVA-Family Programs Office  
101 Eggerts Crossing Road  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

US Post Office mail ONLY-  
DMAVA-Family Programs Office  
PO Box 340  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

#### Phone Numbers:

Toll Free: 1-888-859-0352  
Office: 609-530-6836  
Cell: 609-802-5751

#### Email:

[amanda.balas@us.army.mil](mailto:amanda.balas@us.army.mil)  
[amandabalas@hotmail.com](mailto:amandabalas@hotmail.com)

**Check it out!!**

[www.guardfamily.org/Youth](http://www.guardfamily.org/Youth)



## Upcoming New Jersey National Guard Events

### APRIL IS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Please take a moment to thank your military child for all their hard work and sacrifice. As a token of my appreciation, I would like to honor your National Guard military child or children with a Certificate of Appreciation as well as some giveaways during the Month of the Military Child. At the parent/guardian request, I will mail the package addressed to the child throughout the month of April. If you would like your child to receive a package, please contact me with the following information.....

Parent/Guardian Name:

Military Member's Unit:

Family Email Address:

Child(ren) Name(s):

Youth Birthdate:

Youth Home Address:

Please submit the above information between March 25—April 28, 2009 if you would like your child(ren) to receive a certificate and package.

### BATTLE LAB TOUR

Saturday April 18, 2009 from 9:15am - Noon for youth ages 10 years old and up. Activity will take place at the Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC) Building 3601 on Fort Dix. Youth will be able to view and learn about various flags and countries, learn about military occupational specialties (MOS), weapons marksmanship, walk through desert night fighting lanes and work with virtual combat convoy trainer.

Only twenty five slots are available on a first come, first serve basis. Youth are responsible for transportation. Parents may drop youth off or walk through with group. For more information, please contact Amanda at [amanda.balas@us.army.mil](mailto:amanda.balas@us.army.mil) or 609-530-6836

### UPCOMING REUNION BRIEFS

Reunion Briefs will be taking place at various Armories across the state. If you or someone you know will be experiencing a loved one's return from deployment, we encourage you to try and make one of these briefs. Each brief will be conducted the same way, with the same presentations, literature and handouts given at all events. Each brief usually lasts anywhere from 1-3 hours depending on size of group and number of questions. There will be an adult portion of the brief as well as a separate area for the youth ages 3 years old and up.

### Soldier & Family Reunion Brief Schedule

Date	Armory	Time
March 21, 2009	Port Murray	9:30 a.m.
March 22, 2009	Lawrenceville	1 p.m.
April 4, 2009	Jersey City	9:30 a.m.
April 5, 2009	Vineland	1 p.m.
April 16, 2009	Cherry Hill	6:30 p.m.
April 19, 2009	Toms River	1 p.m.
April 27, 2009	Woodbridge	6:30 p.m.
May 6, 2009	Somerset	6:30 p.m.
May 11, 2009	Mount Holly	6:30 p.m.
May 16, 2009	Woodbury	9:30 a.m.
May 21, 2009	Teaneck	6:30 p.m.

### NJ NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CAMP

New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp at Sea Girt for 2009 will be held for youth ages 9-17 and volunteers 18 and older. Youth ages 9-14 will participate in various activities throughout the week of July 19-25, 2009. Activities include, sports, beach, archery, arts-n-crafts and much fun!! Counselors and Volunteers will be at camp from July 18-25, 2009 as Saturday July 18, 2009 from 1-4pm will be a MANDATORY TRAINING. The fee is \$100 per camper (ages 9-14) and free for counselors and volunteers. Anyone interested in working as a Senior Counselor MUST provide a cleared fingerprint background check. Applications can be found at the bottom of our website at [http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth\\_camp.html](http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html)

# **“Celebrating Military Children”**

## **Sunday April 26, 2009**

Burlington YMCA—302 Commerce Square Burlington, NJ 08016



**Sponsored by NJ Operation: Military Kids (OMK)**



### **SOME ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

- **Arts & Crafts**
- **Climbing Wall**
- **Swimming**
- **Photography (MTL)**
- **Face Painting**
- **Healthy Food & Drink**
- **YMCA Values Hoop Shoot**
- **FREE giveaways**
- **Much More.....**



**\*\*FREE drop off service for military children from 1-5pm... OMK team members will supervise your child and one friend ages 5 and up.**

**\*\*Please RSVP by April 21, 2009 by 2pm**

**\*\*75 youth max participation**

**For more information or to RSVP, please contact Amanda Balas, NJNG Youth Coordinator, at 609-530-6836 or at [amanda.balas@us.army.mil](mailto:amanda.balas@us.army.mil). EACH CHILD MUST HAVE A PERMISSION SLIP ON FILE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE!**



**“NJ OMK is a partnership of Army Child and Youth Services, USDA 4-H Headquarters, Rutgers University 4-H Youth Development, and community organizations.”**

**\*\*PERMISSION SLIP CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 6 OF THIS NEWSLETTER**

## National Contest & Programs

### ASYMCA Essay Contest

Every year during Military Family Month, ASYMCA launches its annual art and essay contests, sponsored by GEICO Direct and Lockheed Martin, for children of active duty and retired military personnel and Department of Defense civilians. First and second place winners receive a U.S. savings bond. For the essay children of all Active Duty, Reserve/National Guard or retire military personnel from all branches of service in grades 1-8 should write an essay about "My Military Hero" of at least 100 words but not more than 300 words. Grades 9-12 should write an essay about "My Military Hero" of not less than 300 words and no more than 500 words. All mailed entries must have an essay entry form found in the ASYMCA packet on [www.asymca.org](http://www.asymca.org) and postmarked **March 20, 2009**. All email entries should be sent to [tharper@asymca.org](mailto:tharper@asymca.org) by March 20, 2009.

#### The Essay should be mailed to

ASYMCA

Attn: Essay Contest

6359 Walker Lane, #200

Alexandria, VA 22310

### 2009 Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summits

The Teen Leadership Summits are ONLY for Air Guard and Air Force Reserve youth. The camp is 100% funded and the youth will fly into Atlanta or Jacksonville (depending on the summit location) from the closest major airport to where they live. The application deadline is 6 Apr 09—Application and criteria are located at the following website:

<http://www.georgia4h.org/afrangteensummit/>

#### July 13-17, 2009 - Wahsega 4-H Center, Dahlonega, GA (site of the 2008 Summit)

Attendees will be flown into Atlanta-Hartsfield International Airport. This Summit will focus on developing an awareness of programs and services available to AF Reserve and Air National Guard dependents. Activities include high/low ropes course, rock climbing, white water rafting, environmental education and leadership classes.

#### July 27-31, 2009 - Jekyll Island 4-H Center, Jekyll Island, GA

Attendees will be flown into Jacksonville International Airport. This Summit will build upon information gained at the first Summit so attendees should come with a basic understanding of programs and services available to them as dependents of AFR/ANG. Speak Out for Military Kids training will be provided as well as programs focused on ocean/marsh life and the local history. Activities will include sea kayaking/canoeing, dolphin tours, biking, a day at Cumberland Island National Seashore, leadership activities and more.

The AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summits are open to all 15-18 year old dependent teens of current Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard members.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Ms. Stacey Young, HQ AFRC/A1SY, Chief, Family Member Programs  
[stacey.young@afrc.af.mil](mailto:stacey.young@afrc.af.mil) , 478-327-0971, DSN 497-0971 or

Ms. Brandi Mullins, HQ AFRC/A1SY, Specialist, Child and Youth Programs  
[brandi.mullins@afrc.af.mil](mailto:brandi.mullins@afrc.af.mil) , 478-327-2090, DSN 497-2090

### Our Military Kids, Inc.

Pays the fees for children ages 3 through 12th grade of deployed Reserve and National Guard to participate in youth sports, fine arts and tutor programs. This is a way of recognizing the sacrifices the entire family is making while the service member is deployed overseas. There is a one page application that needs to be sent in with a copy of the deployment orders, a copy of the child's military ID or DEERS form and a flyer of the activity. The child is limited to one grant for one activity. Grant will cover up to six months of instructions, lessons or tutoring with a maximum award of \$500 per child. For more information, please visit [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org)

## Check It Out!!

### *The Kohl's Kids Who Care® Scholarship Program recognizes and rewards young volunteers (ages 6-18) who help make their communities a better place.*

#### **Qualifications:**

- \*\* The young person's actions must be described in detail and should document efforts that are above and beyond what is normally expected of a child his or her age.
  - \*\* Volunteer efforts should have made a positive impact on others and occurred in the last 12 months.
  - \*\* The activity cannot be performed solely to benefit a family member.
  - \*\* Creativity, generosity, leadership and project reach will be evaluated during the judging process.
- Applicants must not have graduated high school as of March 15, 2009.

#### **Winners / Awards:**

- \*\* Nominees will be divided into two groups (ages 6-12 and 13-18) — and awards will be given on three levels.
- \*\* Be sure to nominate an outstanding kid February 1–March 15. Check back in June for winners!
- \*\* Store Winners: More than 2,000 store winners will be awarded a \$50 Kohl's Gift Card.
- \*\* Regional Winners: The 194 regional winners will be awarded \$1,000 scholarships toward their post-secondary education.
- \*\* National Winners: Ten national winners will be awarded \$5,000 scholarships and Kohl's will donate \$1,000 to a nonprofit organization on their behalf.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.kohlscorporation.com/CommunityRelations/scholarship/index.asp>

### *The National Guard Family Program Division is pleased to announce the National Guard: Child Care Use During Deployment Survey.*

Survey Link: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228AQH9A7LQ>

**Target Audience:** National Guard families with children who are currently preparing for deployment, in a deployment phase, or recently returned from deployment (up to 2 months after return).

**PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:** Information collected in this survey will be used to research perceptions and child care needs of military members. This information will assist in the formulation and improvement of policies for programs that benefit military families. Reports will be provided to the National Guard Family Programs Division. Findings may be used in reports and testimony provided to Congress and other Government Agencies. Some findings may be published in professional journals, or presented at conferences, symposia, and scientific meetings. In no case will individual identifiable survey responses be reported. Providing information on this survey is voluntary. Most people take 10-15 minutes to complete the survey.

### *Partners with Heroes Program*

Summertime - a season of joy for children & teens and a very busy season for active military men and women. We can help you ensure that your child's summer is filled with joyful experiences exploring the great outdoors, making friends, learning new skills, gaining confidence and taking responsibility for making their world a better place. These experiences are a standard part of the Camp Speers-Eljabar YMCA summer resident camp program for children and teens entering grades 3 - 11.

In appreciation for all you do to safeguard the liberties we all enjoy, Camp Speers-Eljabar YMCA is proud to establish Partners with Heroes. Through this program, we are connecting children of military parents to the opportunities offered through our summer camp program. 2009 Camp programs begin on Sunday, June 28th and run through Saturday, August 22nd with one and two week sessions. The special Partners with Heroes fees are \$ 506.25 for one week or \$ 975 for a two week session of our traditional camp program. This represents a 25% reduction on our regular fees.

Learn more about our summer camp programs by visiting our website [www.campspeersymca.org](http://www.campspeersymca.org), calling us toll free 877-SPEERSY or emailing us at [campers@campspeersymca.org](mailto:campers@campspeersymca.org). Schedule a visit to see our 1,100 acre paradise just over the Delaware River from north west NJ, only 1 ½ hours from NYC and central NJ. Mention that you are an active military parent and participating in the Partners with Heroes program.



**PERMISSION SLIP** for Celebrating Military Children Event at YMCA  
Sunday 4/26/09 from 1-5pm

**\*\*Please print this form, fill it out (one per child), sign it and send it back to Amanda Balas via fax at 609-530-6871, mail or scan this form with parent/guardian signature and email it to amanda.balas@us.army.mil by Tuesday April 21, 2009 by 2pm if you would like your child(ren) to attend. Please mail the completed form to:**

**DMAVA—Family Programs Office**

**Attn: Amanda Balas**

**PO Box 340**

**Trenton, NJ 08625-0340**

**You will receive confirmation via email or phone from Amanda Balas once the form is received.**

I hereby give my son/daughter permission to participate in the Operation: Military Kids event on Sunday, April 26, 2009 from 1-5pm at the Burlington YMCA. Although the New Jersey National Guard, YMCA, 4-H and Aspire Youth Development will use the utmost precaution in guarding the welfare of the youth, I release them from any liability in case of illness or injury as a result of this activity.

**NAME OF YOUTH:** \_\_\_\_\_ **M or F**

**DOES THIS YOUTH HAVE A MILITARY PARENT? Y or N** **MILITARY MEMBER'S UNIT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IF NO, NAME THE MILITARY CHILD YOU ARE COMING WITH TO THE EVENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBERS: (H)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(C)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(ALT)** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BIRTHDATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALLERGIES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL CONCERNS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY POINT OF CONTACT**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **RELATIONSHIP TO YOUTH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE #s: ( )** \_\_\_\_\_ **( )** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHOTO RELEASE**

I grant the National Guard Child and Youth Program and its associated staff and subordinate entities, the right to take, use, reproduce, assign and/or distribute photographs, films, videotapes, sound recordings and non-confidential information of the youth for use in any such materials as the National Guard Child and Youth Program or its associated entities may create, without any payment to or future approval by me. I concur that there shall be no payment for such use.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_ NO, do not take my child's picture for any reason \_\_\_\_\_ (Initials)